

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicant respectfully requests that the following paragraph [0020] replace the second full paragraph [0020] of page 6 of the specification, to appear as the second paragraph of the section titled "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION":

[0020] Figure 3 shows a pattern of a stent according to the present invention. This pattern may be constructed of known materials, and for example stainless steel, but it is particularly suitable to be constructed from NiTi. The pattern can be formed by etching a flat sheet of NiTi into the pattern shown. The flat sheet is formed into a stent by rolling the etched sheet into a tubular shape, and welding the edges of the sheet together to form a tubular stent. The details of this method of forming the stent, which has certain advantages, are disclosed in U. S. Patent Nos. 5,836,964 and ~~5,997,973~~ 5,997,703, which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference. Other methods known to those of skill in the art such as laser cutting a tube or etching a tube may also be used to construct a stent which uses the present invention. After formation into a tubular shape, a NiTi stent is heat treated, as known by those skilled in the art, to take advantage of the shape memory characteristics of NiTi and/or its superelasticity.